

Milling news

> *In brief*



Small milling research project initiative

The SRA Board has approved the development of a new Small Milling Research Project initiative, in response to feedback and discussion with milling investors and stakeholders. The initiative will be subject to the following principles:

1. Project investment will be capped at \$75,000 per project with a maximum cap for the initiative of \$250,000 per year;
2. The application must clearly describe how the project fits with milling and SRA RD&A priorities and the potential industry benefit ("business case") from adopting project outcomes;
3. The project personnel do not need to be from a research institution and could be from a milling organisation, equipment manufacturer/supplier, consultant or other organisation, but at least one applicant must be from a milling organisation;
4. SRA's investment in this initiative will be included in the total investment in Key Focus Area 5: *Milling Efficiency and Technology* and not be considered as additional investment;
5. The potential attractiveness of investment proposals would be enhanced by financial co-investment within the project; and
6. SRA will provide a "window" for the receipt of Small Milling Research proposals from mid-December concluding at the end of February, with successful projects to start within the 2018 crushing season.

More information on this initiative will be available via the regular SRA enewsletter, which can be subscribed to via the links at our website. Information will also be available at www.sugarresearch.com.au.

Milling info online

With the permission of Australian sugar mills, SRA publishes some mill area statistics each year on our website, under the *Millers* section. This information was previously published in the Australian Sugar Yearbook, which has been discontinued as a publication. The statistics are available under <https://sugarresearch.com.au/growers-and-millers/milling/>.

Also within the milling section you can find previous editions of the *Milling Matters* magazine, and the *Laboratory Manual for Australian Sugar Mills*.

Final reports from SRA-funded research projects are found in the SRA elibrary, at <http://elibrary.sugarresearch.com.au/>



SRA Board visits Tully and Ingham

The SRA Board met with growers, millers and industry stakeholders during visits to Tully (August 16) and Ingham (August 17).

The SRA Board regularly meet with investors across the industry to discuss their priorities for research, development and adoption (RD&A) from SRA. The Board hold six meetings per year, three of which are in regional cane-growing areas.

Meetings in Tully included a visit to TSL and a tour of the mill, field talks with Tully Cane Productivity Services Limited, and a visit to the SRA Tully research station. Talks there included SRA's work on nutrient management and managing Pachymetra root rot.

The Board also met with Tully CANEGROWERS and visited growers in the region to hear about their priorities. It was the SRA Board's first formal visit to Tully since the formation of SRA in 2013.

The Board met with investors in Ingham, including Wilmar, and also looked at research activity in the region including plant breeding (new varieties), engineering (harvest efficiency), nutrient management, water logging, and farm business management.

SRA thanks everyone for their support for the visit.

Above (left): Directors Ms Lindy Hyam and Dr Guy Roth (front) meeting with Tully Sugar General Manager, Mr Barry Dun.

Above (right): SRA Director Dr Ian Johnsson, Research Funding Panel member Mr Gary Longden and General Manager, Mr Barry Dun.

Opposite page: SRA Director Dr Guy Roth getting a close look inside the Tully mill.

Construction of MSF Sugar's green energy power plant forges ahead

Civil works for MSF Sugar's new \$75 million green energy power plant at the Tableland Mill have been completed, paving the way for work to start on the major component – a high-pressure boiler which will turn biomass waste into energy.

Construction of the plant started in May of this year and is on track to be completed by July 2018.

The plant will use a 100 per cent renewable sugarcane fibre to produce 24 megawatts of electricity – enough to power every house in the Tableland region.

MSF Sugar Tableland Green Energy Power Plant Project Manager, Mark Magnanini, said with all of the design and engineering now complete, the team is excited to be moving into the construction phase.